



REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
held Monday, February 23, 2009.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Andrew Nussbaum, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; James Craze, Police Chief; Ken Hall, Director of Public Works; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents Ted Kliman and Mary Lou Wolfe and former resident Ethel Mae Fisanich. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ms. Mach asked to remove the minutes of the February 9, 2009, regular meeting from the consent agenda. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Work Session, February 4, 2009

Interview, February 9, 2009

Approved as presented.

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR

MEMBERSHIP: Council amended the eligibility requirements for members of the Youth Advisory Board to allow for young adult members employed by the City in non-classified part-time positions to be eligible for membership.

REAPPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council reappointed Richard Ransom to the Community Relations Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Herling requested Appointment to Advisory Board be added as Item #17. Mayor Davis requested Letter of Support for the Greenbelt Farmers Market and Greenbelt Museum be added as Item #18 and State Bill 666 - No Net Loss of Forest Policy be included with Item #13, State Bills. It was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Peace and Diversity Month: Mr. Bertram Donn read a letter he had sent to Council on behalf of The Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition requesting Council declare June 2009 as "Peace and Diversity Month" and provide assistance with promotion of the event.

After discussion, Council indicated they would like community input on the idea and recommended this request be referred to the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) to be considered with Council's previous referral on whether there should be a city event in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mr. Donn said he had hoped to begin advertising the event at the Green Man Festival, and expressed concern that referring the request to CRAB would cause a delay. Mr. McLaughlin said the referral would be communicated to CRAB immediately and a meeting would be scheduled as soon as possible, based on the availability of the members.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular Meeting, February 9, 2009: Ms. Mach asked to correct the minutes to indicate her question regarding the ballfield lights was directed to the Recreation Department. It was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens that the minutes be approved with this change. The motion passed 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin announced that Mary Johnson, the City's new Human Resource Officer, had started work today. He said Ms. Johnson, along with several other new hires, would be formally introduced to Council at a March meeting.

Mayor Davis said she had received a phone call Sunday evening from a resident requesting emergency assistance with an eviction scheduled for Monday morning. She asked that CARES provide Council a list of emergency contact organizations and phone numbers to be used to assist residents in need. Mr. McLaughlin said he would forward the request to CARES but suggested calls of this nature be referred to the on-call crisis counselor.

Ms. Mach commented on the Prince George's County Municipal Association reception, the Council of Government's luncheon, the Goddard Alliance meeting, the Greenbelt Middle School meeting and the Greenbelt Middle School Science Fair. She also introduced Luisa Robles, Recycling Coordinator, at the last meeting of the Democratic Club to discuss recycling.

Mayor Davis commented on the Maryland Mayor's Association meeting, Cub Scout Pack 202's 64th Anniversary Blue and Gold dinner, the Greenbelt Middle School meeting and the "If I were Mayor" contest. She also noted she had submitted the Banner City application to the Maryland Municipal League.

Award of Purchase – Public Works Vehicle: Mayor Davis read the agenda. Mr. Herling moved that Council approve the purchase of a ½ ton pickup truck from Hertrich Fleet Services of

Denton, Maryland, in accord with the State of Maryland bid #001B9200258 for a cost of \$16,446. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Orleans, Greenbelt, questioned why the City was purchasing a pickup truck with a gasoline engine instead of a cleaner burning diesel engine. Mr. Hall said the same type of truck could be ordered with a diesel engine, but it would add approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000 to the cost. Mr. Roberts commented the State should be including natural gas vehicles on their bids. Mayor Davis said the City always looks at purchasing “green” but has to be fiscally responsible.

POLICE BRIEFING-TGI FRIDAY'S: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and asked Chief Craze to brief Council on the incident. Chief Craze detailed the Signal 13 (officer in trouble) incident and noted the Greenbelt Police were assisted by the United States Park Police and Prince George’s County Police. He also mentioned personnel of the restaurant and members of the Platinum Rollers had provided assistance to the officers.

Chief Craze introduced Mr. John Faison, General Manager of TGI Friday’s. Mr. Faison said he is aware of the seriousness of the incident and had taken steps to assure this type of incident will not occur again. He explained the restaurant’s bartenders had recently completed training in alcohol awareness and management staff had met to review their responsibilities regarding serving alcohol responsibly, watching for the warning signs and communicating with the police officers on duty.

Reggie Norris, President of the Platinum Rollers, introduced members Paul Brown and Sean Barker and said Mr. Barker had broken his ankle while assisting the police officers during the incident. Mr. Norris said the Platinum Rollers had been holding “Bike Night” at TGI Friday’s on Wednesday evenings for two years and explained it as an evening of fellowship for members of the motorcycle community. He stated the individuals involved in the incident were not part of their group.

Mr. Norris said members of the Platinum Rollers want to assist members of the local community and mentioned the assistance they provide to needy families and their involvement with numerous charities. He said he wanted the community to know what their group was about and what they stand for. Mayor Davis encouraged the Platinum Rollers to become involved in community events, such as the Labor Day Parade, to let the community know more about their group.

Mr. Putens said he appreciates the efforts taken by TGI Friday’s staff but wants to be sure TGI Friday’s stays a safe family restaurant. He said he would go to the County Liquor Board if another incident of this type occurs again.

Council thanked members of the Platinum Rollers for the assistance they provided the officers during the incident.

STATE LEGISLATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council support Senate Bill 278/House Bill 315. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Mach moved that Council support House Bill 968/Senate Bill 921. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Dorrie Bates, Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative, thanked the City for their support. She said they would like to renovate approximately 17,000 square feet, including new freezer and refrigeration units, and possibly a new roof.

Mr. Herling moved that Council oppose House Bill 1182. Ms. Mach seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Council discussed House Bill 666/Senate Bill 570, House Bill 667/Senate Bill 742 and House Bill 687/Senate Bill 541. Ms. Mach requested House Bill 666/Senate Bill 570 be amended to include cooperatives and noted that Greenbelt Homes supports these three bills. Mayor Davis moved that Council support House Bill 666/Senate Bill 570 as amended, House Bill 667/Senate Bill 742 and House Bill 687/Senate Bill 541. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis moved that Council request House Bill 1282, dealing with a soccer stadium in the County, be amended to specifically exclude the Greenbelt Metro site from consideration. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis explained she had added Senate Bill 666, No Net Loss in Forest Policy, to the agenda and noted the bill was authored by Senator Pinsky. She moved that Council support Senate Bill 666. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Earth Hour 2009: Ms. Mach explained Earth Hour 2009 is the World Wildlife Fund's global initiative for individuals, businesses and governments to turn off their lights for one hour beginning at 8:30 p.m. on March 28, 2009, to show their support for action on climate change. She noted Clean Air Partners had requested Greenbelt become a supporting city of Earth Hour 2009. Ms. Mach moved that Council approve the City's participation in Earth Hour 2009 and refer the idea to the Green Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability for promotion ideas. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. Love, 3-D Plateau, commented he has been a registered participant of Earth Hour for the past three years and suggested local shopping centers be encouraged to participate in the event.

APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Herling moved to appoint Anna Socrates to the Arts Advisory Board. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

LETTER OF SUPPORT - GREENBELT FARMERS MARKET AND GREENBELT MUSEUM: Mayor Davis moved Council send a letter to the Maryland Historical Trust in support of the efforts of the Greenbelt Farmers Market and the Greenbelt Museum to create an educational project about Victory Gardens. She noted the letter would be included with their grant application. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule. Mayor Davis requested Advisory Group Chairs, Greenbelt Homes, Greenbelt Park and the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation be added to the list of meetings to be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, February 23, 2009, at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held February 23, 2009."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor